

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/466,169, for which applicant claims priority of the original filing date of 12/19/1999.

Original claims 1-65 are canceled, and new claims 66-114 are added by this Amendment. Claims 66-87 are identical (except for correction of some minor typographical errors) to claims 1-22, respectively, of US patent 6,496,775, having been copied therefrom. The '775 patent was filed on 12/20/2000, i.e., one year and one day *after* the filing date of the parent '169 application of the instant continuation application, and it is respectfully submitted that the copied claims are fully supported by the specification of the parent '169 application as duplicated in the instant continuation application.

An Information Disclosure Statement will be filed in due course.

Early action on the merits of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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